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FACILITY IS NOT WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

INTRODUCTION

This booklet provides a brief description of the mission, organization, county plans and other major responsibilities of the department. In addition to these, the department coordinates response and recovery activities through implementation of these plans during and after actual emergencies. Such implementation requires the support and assistance of many other county departments, local jurisdictions, the private sector and volunteer agencies

The ultimate result of this effort is the protection of lives and property.



MISSION

To ensure the greatest possible survival of the population, protection of property and continuity of government in the event of national security, technological or natural disasters.

ORGANIZATION

The staff of fourteen full time positions is organized into two groups: emergency planners and support staff.

DEPARTMENT FUNCTIONS

Administration and Personnel
Budget/Fiscal
Communications and Warning Systems
Disaster Assistance and Planning
Emergency Information System (Computer Database)
Emergency Operations Center Activation/Disaster Coordination
Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Maintenance
Emergency Operations Plan
Flood Hazard Mitigation
Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Planning
Hazardous Materials Reporting
Hospital & Nursing Home Disaster Drills
Hospital Mass Casualty Management Assistance
Maintenance
Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station Response
Public Awareness
Resource Management During Disasters

NOTE: Staff members are assigned as liaisons to incorporated cities and towns to provide assistance in the preparation of local emergency plans and training programs. Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) are used to perform these mandates for them.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

The Maricopa County Emergency Operations Plan defines the authority, operational concepts and responsibilities of county government in natural or man-made disaster situations. It provides for continued government operations and service to the public in times of emergency and for keeping the public informed. It consists of a basic plan with supporting annexes which provide courses of actions during disasters and which facilitate county support to local jurisdictions. The annexes include the functions of Direction and Control, Warning, Communications, Damage Assessment, Disaster Assistance, Reports, Storms and Floods, Earthquakes, Fires and Explosions, Civil Disturbances, Hazardous Materials Incidents, Aircraft Crashes, and National Security Emergencies. The Maricopa County Emergency Operations Plan is closely integrated with federal and state plans, and it provides the framework around which local jurisdictions can develop their own planning to cope with emergency operations.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ANNEX TO EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

This annex was developed pursuant to Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986. It defines the authority and responsibilities of the county government and its subordinate elements, establishes operational concepts and provides guidance to the various municipalities within the county concerning actions to be taken in the event of an accident involving the release of extremely hazardous substances. The annex includes a comprehensive listing of all facilities in the County that use, manufacture or store extremely hazardous substances.

TASKS

Activate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for coordination of emergency operations during disaster-level incidents.

- Establish and maintain emergency communications and warning systems.
- Disseminate flood warnings to the public and the news media.
- Recommend and coordinate evacuation in unincorporated areas.
- Coordinate requests for critical resources and mutual aid.
- Coordinate damage assessment.
- Coordinate welfare support and recovery activities.
- Assist in the establishment of Disaster Application Centers.
- Coordinate with disaster-related agencies from the local, state and federal governments.

OFF-SITE RESPONSE PLAN FOR FIXED NUCLEAR FACILITY (PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION)

The Joint State/County Emergency Off-Site Response Plan in the event of an accident at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station provides for actions to be taken by state, county and volunteer agencies for the protection of the population both from the effects of radiation exposure from airborne radioactive materials and from radiation exposure by ingesting substances contaminated with radioactive materials. Maricopa County is responsible for operations to protect the people living within a 10-mile radius of Palo Verde for airborne radiation exposure, while the state is responsible for the protection of people from ingestion hazards. The plan consists of a basic plan with supporting annexes which delineate responsibilities and assign specific tasks to county departments and volunteer agencies. The protective actions which may be taken by the county, depending on the severity of the accident and the decision of the Governor, are 1) *Sheltering* - instructs people to remain in their homes; 2) *Evacuation* - evacuates all personnel living within the affected area; or 3) some combination of those actions.

TASKS

- Activate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for coordination of emergency response operations.
- Establish and maintain emergency communications and warning systems.
- Prepare appropriate warning message (sheltering, evacuation or a combination of the two).
- Activate the siren system to alert the residents.
- Activate the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to broadcast the warning message.
- Coordinate protective action operations.

OTHER MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Assistance to Incorporated Jurisdictions

Assist cities and towns with which the county has an intergovernmental agreement in developing their own emergency plans and training programs, and in the management of most of the emergency management functions previously mentioned.

- *Communications and Warning*

Maintain, monitor and test a variety of fixed, mobile and portable radios; a warning siren system within the metropolitan area; and a separate warning siren system within a 10-mile radius surrounding the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station.

- *Hospitals and Nursing Homes*

Provide assistance in disaster planning and mass casualty management exercises and drills for all hospitals and nursing homes in the county.

- *Schools*

Provide assistance in emergency planning to approximately 350 schools and districts, and provide tours of the County Emergency Operations Center and instructions in disaster preparedness.

- *Public Awareness*

Provide speakers to organizations on various themes concerning emergency preparedness: Desert Survival, Palo Verde Planning, Flood Hazard Response, etc. Distribute emergency preparedness materials to libraries, community centers and senior centers throughout the county.

- *Disaster Assistance*

Provide damage assessment support following a disaster to teams of county and local officials who are surveying areas to determine eligibility for federal assistance. Affected county and city/town agencies are briefed and Disaster Application Centers are opened, if necessary, to aid local jurisdictions and individuals in recovering from losses incurred during the disaster.

- Serve as the administrative agency for the Maricopa County Local Emergency Planning District (LEPD) established under the authority of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986.
- Serve as the repository and point of contact for information submitted in accordance with the Community Right-to-Know provision of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986.
- Administer and test the Maricopa County Medical Alerting System (MCMAS), which is used to warn area hospitals about mass casualty situations which may overload their facilities.